



THE CITY CONGREGATION
for HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

SHABBAT PROGRAMS 2009-10

Location:

Community Church of New York, 40 E. 35th St., between Park and Madison Ave.
Or, when noted, 14th Street Y, 344 East 14th St., between 1st & 2nd Ave.

Formats:

Shabbat with Catered Dinner (\$17/adult, \$12/child - ages 4-13)

Arrive after 6pm for set-up and pre-dinner snack; 6:30pm - Shabbat Service at the dinner tables followed by the catered dinner; 8:15pm - Cultural Program

Shabbat with Pot-Luck Dessert

Arrive at 7:15pm; 7:30pm – Shabbat Service and Oneg/Refreshments; 8:30pm - Cultural Program

Pot-Luck Dessert: Members and guests are encouraged to bring enough dessert for themselves and one other person. We won't complain if you bring more.

Children's Program:

Unless otherwise indicated, there is a children's program each Shabbat with activities for kids, ages 5+. Please RSVP by the Wednesday prior to the Shabbat if you are bringing a child or children with you, or one week ahead if you coming to a Shabbat with a catered dinner.

Guests are always welcome at our Shabbat celebrations and programs. **Reservations** are appreciated for all events and are **required with payment for meals one week prior to the Shabbat**. Call 212-213-1002.

All dates and programs are subject to change. To confirm events and for more information, contact the office at 212-213-1002 or info@citycongregation.org.



Friday, September 11

Shabbat Service and Dinner at 6:30pm, followed by Program at 8:15pm

“THE BINTEL BRIEF: The Original Advice Column - Then and Now”

The *Bintel Brief* was the Yiddish *Forward's* legendary advice column, launched in 1906 by Abraham Cahan. It addressed the pressing needs, challenges and sorrows of Jewish immigrants as they found their way in American life.

Rabbi Peter Schweitzer will pose questions from the original *Bintel Brief* and then entertain contemporary questions that we face today. Come prepared to offer your own opinions!



Friday, October 9

Shabbat Service at 7:30pm, followed by Pot-Luck Dessert. Program at 8:30pm.

**“FIGHTING BACK: Strategies for Responding to Modern Anti-Semitism”
In tribute to the 150th birthday of Alfred Dreyfus, born Oct. 9, 1859**

When does criticism of Israel become anti-Semitism? How do we answer accusations that scapegoat Jews for the financial crisis? How do we respond to Holocaust denial? **Rabbi Peter Schweitzer** will examine an array of literature that confronts these questions and offers useful responses.



Friday, October 23

Shabbat Service and Dinner at 6:30pm, followed by Program at 8:15pm

“JEWISH SING-A-LONG with Michelle Lang Zalph”

Adults and kids are invited to join us for a fun-filled evening singing easy-to-learn Jewish songs in Yiddish, Hebrew and English! No experience needed - all songs will be taught and lyrics will be provided.

TCC member **Michelle Lang Zalph** has performed for many years and led sing-a-longs and music workshops for all ages.



Friday, November 6

Shabbat Service and Dinner at 6:30pm, followed by Program at 8:15pm

"LIFE AND RIGHTS IN ISRAEL: Where do Women and Gays/Lesbians Fit In?" Lilly Rivlin will discuss these and other questions in dialogue with Rabbi Schweitzer

Lilly Rivlin, a 7th generation Jerusalemite, has worked as a journalist, writer, and filmmaker for the last 35 years both internationally and in the United States. She is a political activist with a special interest in feminism and the Arab-Israeli peace process. Among her recent projects was the film, *Can You Hear Me? Israeli and Palestinian Women Fight for Peace* (2006). She serves on the board of **Meretz USA for Israel Civil Rights and Peace**, a US non-profit organization that supports a genuine peace between the State of Israel and its neighbors (including the Palestinian people) based on a negotiated land-for-peace solution. For more information, go to www.meretzusa.org.



Friday, November 20

Shabbat Service at 7:30pm, followed by Pot-Luck Dessert. Program at 8:30pm. NOTE: This program will be at the 14th Street Y (344 E. 14th St.)

“THIS I BELIEVE: City Congregation Members Join the Conversation”

For years on NPR, and in the 1950s on Edward R. Murrow's radio show, celebrities and ordinary people have participated in an extraordinary conversation about their core values. More than 60,000 of these three-minute talks – ranging in title from *There Is No God* (by Penn Gillette) to *An Idea of Service to Our Fellow Man* (by Albert Einstein) to *Be Cool to the Pizza Delivery Dude* – are now collected on the **This I Believe** website (thisibelieve.org). Tonight an eclectic group of City Congregation members will offer their own reflections and then welcome us all into this now-international conversation. Moderated by **Carol Sternhell**.



Friday, December 11 – Chanukah Celebration and Dinner

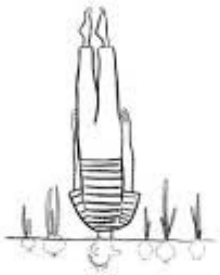
Chanukah candlelighting, service and dinner at 6:30pm, followed by Special Chanukah program at 8:15pm

BRING YOUR MENORAH AND CANDLES AND JOIN US FOR THE FIRST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH.

Friday, January 8

Shabbat Service at 7:30pm, followed by Pot-Luck Dessert. Program at 8:30pm.

“YOU SHOULD GROW LIKE AN ONION WITH YOUR HEAD IN THE GROUND: Wise Jewish Sayings, Practical Wisdom, and also some Colorful Curses”



Rabbi Peter Schweitzer will share a wide variety of time-honored Jewish sayings from the Bible, the Talmud, and Yiddish and Ladino culture, that reflect on health, justice, children, destiny, interpersonal relations, and many other topics.

Truth is the safest lie.

When you climb a ladder, count the rungs.

They should name someone after you already!



Friday, January 22

Shabbat Service and Dinner at 6:30pm, followed by Program at 8:15pm

"PEOPLE OF THE LIBRETTO: A History and Celebration of Jews in Musical Theater"

For almost a century, American musical theater has been created primarily by Jews: composers like Rodgers, Gershwin, Arlen, Kern, and Bernstein; lyricists like Hart, Lerner, Harburg, Harnick, and Ebb; and composer-lyricists like Berlin, Loesser, Herman, Sondheim, and Schwartz. How did this happen, and why? In this program, presented by TCC members, **Jack Lechner** and **Peter Mones** will review the colorful history of Jews in American musical theater, while **Trudy Elins**, **Michelle Lang Zalph**, **Anne Shonbrun**, and **Dan Wyman** will perform musical selections to illustrate significant developments, accompanied on piano by **Louise Moed**. Come enjoy this wonderful music!

This same production will also be performed at our Sunday Adult Perspective on January 24.



Friday, February 5

Shabbat Service at 7:30pm, followed by Pot-Luck Dessert. Program at 8:30pm.

**"OUTRAGEOUS HERESIES OR DARING TRUTHS:
A Tribute to Baruch Spinoza"**

The Society for Humanistic Judaism has chosen 17th century Dutch philosopher **Baruch Spinoza** as its Humanistic Jewish Role Model of the Year. We are joining other Humanistic Jewish communities to honor Spinoza's intellectual contributions to the Jewish people, to the Enlightenment and post-Enlightenment understanding of Judaism and to the development of the philosophy of Humanistic Judaism. Led by **Rabbi Peter Schweitzer**.

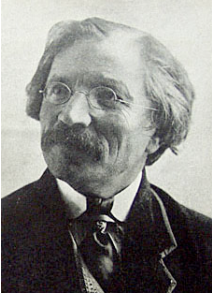


Friday, February 26 – Purim Celebration and Dinner

Purim service and dinner at 6:30pm, followed by Special Purim program at 8:15pm

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL PURIM CELEBRATION.

In honor of Queen Esther, we will celebrate the role of Jewish women by selecting one for a special tribute honoring **A Woman of Valor**. We'll also plan a fun program – perhaps a bit risqué! – in keeping with the Purim spirit.



Friday, March 12

Shabbat Service and Dinner at 6:30pm, followed by Program at 8:15pm

**“LET MY NAME BE RECALLED WITH LAUGHTER OR NOT AT ALL:
In Celebration of Shalom Aleichem – The Jewish Mark Twain”**

Who doesn't know Tevya and Goldie from *Fiddler on the Roof*? But did you know that long before they appeared on Broadway, these lovable characters had arisen from the imagination of **Shalom Aleichem** (born Sholem Naumovich Rabinovich) and originally published in 1894? Join us for a delightful evening that pays tribute to this beloved humorist.

Special Feature: **Alicia Svigals**, renowned klezmer violinist and TCC member, will participate in the program.



Friday, April 9

Shabbat Service at 7:30pm, followed by Pot-Luck Dessert. Program at 8:30pm.

YOM HASHOAH - HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

Memorial Candlelighting Ceremony, Music, Guest Speaker

Co-sponsored with *The Generation After / Holocaust Survivors USA*.



Friday, April 23

Shabbat Service and Dinner at 6:30pm, followed by Program at 8:15pm

ISRAELI FOLK DANCING FOR ADULTS AND KIDS with Steve Zalph

No experience needed - all ages welcome. We'll teach all the dances, so come join the fun!

TCC member **Steve Zalph** taught international folk dancing for 23 years, including leading a Tuesday night folk dance session for 20 years that drew an average of 225 folk dancers each week. He also taught folk dancing at the 92nd Street Y, in a class held every Saturday night for 15 years.



Friday, May 7

Shabbat Service and Dinner at 6:30pm, followed by Program at 8:15pm

“EVERYONE HAS A ONCE UPON A TIME: Stories that Make you Care as well as Laugh”

Roslyn Bresnick-Perry is a celebrated storyteller whose stories span decades of the twentieth century and great distances, from a Belarus shtetl in pre-Holocaust Europe where she spent her childhood, through immigration, to post-war New York City, and her years in the garment industry as a senior designer. She has appeared at the Victory Theatre on Broadway, represented New York City at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, and told stories at the Library of Congress. Her books include *I Loved My Mother on Saturdays, and other tales from the shtetl and beyond* and *Leaving for America*.



Friday, May 21

Shabbat Service at 7:30pm, followed by Pot-Luck Dessert. Program at 8:30pm. NOTE: This program will be at the 14th Street Y (344 E. 14th St.)

“LIBE MAYNE: Women’s Yiddish Poetry” with Nikolai “Kolya” Borodulin

In Celebration of Shavuot. Traditionally, this holiday commemorates the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. As Humanistic Jews, we use this occasion to celebrate all of our collective literature.

Nikolai “Kolya” Borodulin is Assistant Director of the Workmen’s Circle/Arbeter Ring Center for Cultural Jewish Life. He plans the WC/AR educational programs and develops resources for adults and children. He teaches Yiddish to adults and children and is the author of *Yiddish Year Round – a curriculum for young beginners*. His presentation will focus on several first-rank Yiddish women poets, reading and analyzing samples from their extraordinary and diverse heritage.



Friday, June 11

Shabbat Service at 7:30pm, followed by Pot-Luck Dessert. Program at 8:30pm.

END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION *plus* Jewish Trivia

Join us for our annual tribute to our special volunteers, board members, and leaders of the congregation. Then test your Jewish knowledge! See how much Jewish trivia you know!